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GO SERV Website:
www.goserv.ca.gov

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News From the Team

**From Adam Sutkus,
Citizen Corps Program Director**

January, the start of 2004, brings us a new year and a renewed focus to Citizen Corps. There has been no shortage of recent events keeping emergencies in the public eye: southern California Fires, floods, earthquake, Orange Alert, etc. More than ever before our goal of harnessing the spirit of volunteerism and service in support of neighborhood and community safety through Citizen Corps is a necessity.

Your GO SERV Citizen Corps team continues to build the infrastructure and tools to allow for expansion of Citizen Corps and related programs statewide. Our website now has a "best practices" section with several excellent tools you should find very useful; our grant management system continues to be updated for ease of use; and we are coordinating closely with CA's Office of Homeland Security to develop a strong and integrated 2004 statewide grant effort.

2004 will be a productive year--thank you for your continued dedication to California's Citizen Corps program.

2004 Citizen Corps Grant Developing

Originally targeted at January 5th, the release of the 2004 "bundled" grant package--including the State Homeland Security Program, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and the Citizen Corps Program--will now likely be released near the end of the month. Ongoing coordination of implementation details continues to be worked out between the federal Dept. of Homeland Security and California. Specifically, GO SERV is working closely with CA's Office of

Emergency Services and Office of Homeland Security to address reporting issues, eligible costs, and tracking using the future State Terrorism Strategy.

Our expectation is that when the February Citizen Corps newsletter is released, the 2004 guidance will be finalized and we will outline a summary of the grant package details.

New Office of Homeland Security Director

California is honored to have Ron Eiden as its new Director of Homeland Security. He comes to the position with a wealth of experience, most recently as the Assistant Director of the Los Angeles field office of the FBI. GO SERV will be working closely with Director Eiden and his team at OHS on implementation issues for Citizen Corps statewide.

Citizen Corps and VOAD Workshop

In the first year of Citizen Corps existence, community groups throughout the state researched, took action, and formed new Councils. Yet, one of the early "lessons learned" for the Citizen Corps program was that there is an "alphabet soup" of new and existing organizations forming community-based emergency preparedness and homeland security programs. The terms: "Citizen Corps Councils," "CERT" "VOADs"--Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters, and others, was making the local playing field confusing--especially when only a finite number of local volunteers are available to move forward on a focused effort.

To ameliorate this situation, GO SERV, the Northern and Southern California VOAD leadership, CA OES, the American Red Cross, local governments, CERT representatives and others met on November 14, 2003, in Los Angeles to clarify responsibilities, outline areas for collaboration, and identify future

work efforts to resolve any organizational confusion and set the stage for enhanced partnerships.

The results of the meeting were very positive and pragmatically useful; best applications for each group type, their capabilities, and the recommended manner in which to use them was discussed by the group. The final summary document "Citizen Corps Councils and VOAD's" is now available on the GO SERV website (<http://www.goserv.ca.gov/cc/ccpublications.asp>) for reference.

2004 CERT Update

GO SERV is now preparing for another year of increasing California's number of CERT trainers. During 2003, GO SERV trained nearly 200 new CERT trainers and in 2004, GO SERV plans to train 250 new CERT trainers.

The first TTT of 2004 is occurring January 14-16th in Yolo County. The next three courses are tentatively scheduled for Humboldt and Marin Counties in February and Contra Costa County in March.

GO SERV is also going to convene the second CERT Workgroup meeting on February 4th, in Northern California. The meeting will primarily cover the T4 curriculum. We will have a full report in the February newsletter.

Web Site Revamp

We are continuing to update and change our web site. We now have a Best Practices/Tools section where visitors can find power point presentations, Citizen Corps Annex's for County/City/Town (courtesy of San Bernardino County), and the recently complete "Citizen Corps and VOAD's" paper. We will soon have an example of "Citizen Corps-in-a-box," a tool kit produced by CARD of Alameda County that provides, in basic templates, easy methods to begin Citizen Corps local efforts. Make sure to visit the web site

frequently to download the most informative and current tools available. The web address is <http://www.goserv.ca.gov/cc/ccpublications.asp>.

We hope the revamping of the web site makes it more user friendly to all visitors, increases resource availability to grantees and raises public awareness of California's outstanding Citizen Corps programs.

GO SERV Working Closely With Health Agencies

GO SERV is now a member of the Joint Advisory Committee on Terrorism sponsored by the Department of Health Services. This group is addressing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention bioterrorism grant and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) hospital preparedness grant, as well as other health/medical related issues. Medical Reserve Corps is an identified benchmark in the California implementation plan--a key success resulting from our close partnership with the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and DHS at the state level. In coming newsletters we will outline the activities and guidance under development to integrate Medical Reserve Corps efforts consistently statewide.

Citizen Corps Progress!!!

We now have 106 registered CERT programs in California, up from 49 this time last year. We also have 43 registered Citizen Corps Councils throughout the state. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.** Don't forget to register your program, if you haven't already done so. Also, do not forget to register your Neighborhood Watch or VIPS programs on their respective web sites.

Citizen Corps Monthly Spotlight

We are pleased to highlight the efforts of the Medical Reserve Corps of Los Angeles. On January 17th, the MRC of L.A. will have an inaugural meeting of its Board of Directors at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Ray Goodman, M.D., M.P.H, has been the driving force behind the development of the organization, and with its selection as one of 9 new "demonstration grants" in California, has successfully launched its official creation. Dr. Goodman is working closely with the County of Los Angeles' Department of Health Services and the Operational Area to integrate the MRC mission and work with the public, government and first responders. This new MRC also has the unique claim of being the nation's largest--with over 1,000 medical volunteers expected to be involved. Congratulations to all involved; we will watch and learn from the organization's progress.

Grantee Reports Due-Reminder

As a reminder for all grantees that have not submitted previous Progress Reports or their closeout form for FY02, please submit these forms to your grant officers and program officers immediately. Grantees that have not submitted all of these required materials and documents must do so or their final payment will not be processed. Please keep in mind for those grantees that have been granted an extension, a final progress report is required at the end of your extension period. That means you are required to have submitted a fourth quarter progress report as well. All FY02 forms can be found on our site in grantee central.

Conference Update

GO SERV is going to be rescheduling the Governor's Conference. A new date has not yet been selected but should be scheduled soon. We plan on showcasing California's service field to Governor Schwarzenegger at the conference and felt that rescheduling will help to ensure the fullest

participation of the new administration in the planning and implementation of the conference. We ask for your patience and continued support during this time of transition, as GO SERV works with the new Administration to schedule the conference at a time that best suits our new Governor and First Lady.

FAQS

Grantee Information

Q. Where can I find the Invoice Instructions, Form, and Expense Reports and the Budget Revision Form for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.**
1. Go to www.goserv.ca.gov.
 2. On left hand side click on **Grantee Central**.
 3. Enter password: and then click login.
 4. On the left hand side you will now see a menu of items under **Grantee Central**....Click on **Citizen Corps**.
 5. You will now see the message "Welcome to the Citizen Corps section of Grantee Central! Use the tabs above to navigate through this section of the website."
 6. Click on the tab labeled **2002 Application Forms**. The "Invoicing Instructions and Forms" and the "Budget Revision Instructions and Form" can be found here.

Q. What is the contract term for my agency/organization's 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** If you look at the top of the 1st page of the contract will see that the agreement was entered into on December 5, 2002. Also, you can find the complete term of the contract on the 2nd page of the contract labeled "II. Term." With the recently announced extension, the contract term is as follows: December 5, 2002 – December 5, 2003.

Q. When can my agency/organization incur expenses for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** Your agency/organization can only incur expenses during the contract term. The contract term is as follows: December 5, 2002 – December 5, 2003.

Q. When is the FINAL invoice due for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** The final invoice is due 60 days after the expiration of your contract, therefore the last day to submit an invoice is on Monday, February 2, 2004.

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